

## Message Text

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AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS GENOA 0461

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, ELAB, IT

SUBJ: INDUSTRY MINISTER VISITS GENOA IN TORRINGTON CASE

REF: GENOA 0453, 0427, 0351, 0277, 0265, A-30 OF

SEPT. 2, 1975 AND A-27 OF JULY 8, 1975

1. SUMMARY. VISIT MINISTER OF INDUSTRY TO GENOA IN TORRINGTON CASE HAS RAISED ISSUE TO POLITICAL LEVEL. RECOMMEND DEPT. CONTACT U.S. MANAGEMENT OF TORRINGTON WITH VIEW TOWARD PROMPTING RECONSIDERATION COMPANY S LATEST POSITION.

2. IN SURPRISE MOVE, ITALIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY CARLO DONAT-CATTIN PAID SHORT VISIT GENOA AFTERNOON AND EVENING SEPTEMBER 25 TO CONFER WITH LOCAL POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS ON TORRINGTON CASE. ALTHOUGH RELIABLE SOURCES INITIALLY HINTED PURPOSE OF TRIP RELATED TO POSSIBLE REQUISITION OF PLANT, MINISTER TOLD IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE AT CONCLUSION HIS MEETINGS THAT HE HAD COME TO GENOA TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WAS A COMMUNITY OF OPINION AMONG LOCAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND LABOR FORCES CONCERNING THE TORRINGTON SITUATION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD RAISE TORRINGTON QUESTION BEFORE BOTH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE INTERMINISTERIAL

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COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROGRAMMING. THE PROBLEM, HE SAID,

HAS IMPORTANT POLITICAL ASPECTS, AND QUOTE WE WILL COME OUT ALL RIGHT IF THERE IS COMMON AND WELL-COORDINATED ACTION UNQUOTE.

3. MINISTER DONAT-CATTIN MADE CLEAR HIS ANNOYANCE WITH THE TORRINGTON COMPANY S REFUSAL OF SEPTEMBER 22 TO PERMIT A VISIT TO THE GENOA PLANT BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS OF HIS CHOICE. THE EXPERTS WERE TO HAVE ASCERTAINED STATE AND VALUE OF TORRINGTON S EQUIPMENT SO THAT PUBLIC AND/OR PRIVATE ITALIAN INTERESTS COULD WORK OUT A PLAN FOR PLANT S FUTURE. IN COMMUNICATING ITS DECISION, TORRINGTON MADE CLEAR IT HAS NO INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE SALE ITS BUSINESS. THIS REPRESENTS APPARENT HARDENING OF THE COMPANY S DETERMINATION TO SELL BUILDING AND GROUNDS AND REMOVE MACHINERY FOR USE ELSEWHERE.

4. WITH TORRINGTON FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AS THE SYMBOL OF BAD ECONOMIC TIMES IN GENOA, MINISTER DONAT-CATTIN UNDOUBTEDLY FOUND GENOESE LEADERS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS COMMITTED TO PRESERVING EMPLOYMENT FOR TORRINGTON S OVER 500 WORKERS. ALTHOUGH HE TOOK NO DECISION AND REFRAINED FROM GOING TO OCCUPIED PLANT, AS SOME THOUGHT HE WOULD, THE MINISTER OBVIOUSLY IS COMMITTED TO A TIMELY SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM, CERTAINLY BEFORE THE IMPORTANT GENOA CITY ELECTIONS IN SPRING 1976. THE IMPRESSION OF RIGIDITY GIVEN BY TORRINGTON S U.S. MANAGERS IN THEIR MOST RECENT DECISION MAY AID CAUSE OF THOSE PRESSING FOR EXTREME SOLUTION.

5. IN VIEW ABOVE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR DEPT. TO APPROACH TORRINGTON MANAGEMENT AT SUITABLE HIGH LEVEL IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN SITUATION AS IT EXISTS AND TO SUGGEST THAT TORRINGTON MAY WISH TO RECONSIDER ITS LATEST POSITION IN ORDER REOPEN DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF ITS GENOA PLANT.

6. AS REQUESTED BY ZUCCA, NAME TORRINGTON S.P.A. ATTORNEY IN ITALY IS AVV. CLAUDIO CAMILLI, OF MILAN OFFICE OF BAKER AND MACKENZIE, PIAZZA MEDA 3, (TEL: 02/708841).BRUNO  
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## Message Attributes

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